

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 115663
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 L-03
NSAE-00 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02 DODE-00 DOE-15
SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /104 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:CTAYLOR LK
APPROVED BY AF/S:DPETTERSON
AF/S:DKEOGH

-----030631 060018Z /73

O 052353Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 115663

FOR CHARGE NELSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC SF

SUBJECT: PROPOSED US-SOUTH AFRICAN TALKS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

SUMMARY. SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR SOLE CAME INTO DEPARTMENT APRIL 28 AT HIS OWN REQUEST TO SEE AMBASSADOR GERARD SMITH IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED US-SOUTH AFRICAN TALKS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES. SOLE SAID THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS BUT WANTED TO FOLLOW UP ON FOREIGN MINISTER'S BOTHA'S DISCUSSION APRIL 16 WITH THE SECRETARY. FOLLOWING ARE THE MAJOR POINTS IN THE DISCUSSION.

1. INVITATION FOR TALKS IN SOUTH AFRICA. SOLE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO HEAR THAT SMITH WAS PREPARED TO GO TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN AN INVITATION SPECIFYING THE TIME MOST CONVENIENT FOR THE SAG, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE LATTER HALF OF MAY MIGHT BE BEST ASSUMING THAT FOURIE IS NO LONGER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 115663

OCCUPIED WITH THE UN CONSIDERATION OF NAMIBIA. SOLE BELIEVED THAT A WEEK SHOULD BE ALLOWED FOR THE TALKS, WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE ONE OR MORE MEETINGS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA AND MINES MINISTER FANNY BOTHA AS WELL AS DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH FOURIE, ROUX, AND THEIR ASSISTANTS.

2. SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION. SMITH ASKED IF SOLE BELIEVED

THAT THE NUCLEAR DISCUSSIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE UN'S CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. SOLE DOUBTED ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO DEFLECT THE AFRICANS FROM PRESSING FOR SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT SMITH'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA COULD NOT IMMEDIATELY RESOLVE THE ISSUE.

3. U.S. SUPPLY ASSURANCES. SOLE SAID THE CREDIBILITY OF U.S. SUPPLY ASSURANCES IS A MAJOR PROBLEM FOR SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID THE PRESENT STATE OF U.S. SUPPLY CREDIBILITY WOULD NOT SATISFY THE VERY LARGE BODY OF OPINION IN THE SAG THAT DOUBTS ANY U.S. ASSURANCES TO SUPPLY THE SAFARI AND KOEBURG REACTORS WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED. REFERRING TO THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO OVERRIDE THE NRC AND TO SHIP FUEL TO INDIA'S TARAPUR REACTOR, SOLE ASKED WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR NOT TAKING THE SAME ACTION WITH RESPECT TO SUPPLY DECISION ON SOUTH AFRICA. HE EMPHASIZED THAT ANY EVENTUAL US-SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT MUST CARRY WITH IT THE ASSURANCE THAT IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGHOUT ITS LIFE.

4. PRIVACY OF THE TALKS. SMITH EXPRESSED VIEW MORE USEFUL WORK COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED IF THE TALKS COULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHOUT NOTICE TO THE PRESS. SOLE SAID PRESS SHOULD BE INFORMED WHEN THE TALKS BEGIN BUT NOT BE GIVEN MUCH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 115663

ADDITIONAL BRIEFING; SINCE THE TALKS COULD NOT BE CONCEALED FROM THE PRESS, TO TRY TO DO SO WOULD CREATE MORE PROBLEMS.

5. TECHNICAL TEAM RESULTS. AT SMITH'S URGING, SOLE SAID THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE U.S. TECHNICAL TEAM'S VISIT, THE SAG NOW HAS A MUCH CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE USG WANTS IN THE AREA OF SAFEGUARDS. THE VALINDABA PILOT ENRICHMENT PLANT WAS DESIGNED TO ENABLE SAFEGUARDS TO BE APPLIED WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE COMMERCIAL SECRET OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ENRICHMENT PROCESS. THE TEAM'S PROPOSALS HAD REASSURED SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIALS THAT SAFEGUARDS WERE FEASIBLE WITHOUT COMPROMISING TRADE SECRETS. AS AN ASIDE, SOLE SAID HE CAN VISUALIZE THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY ADJUSTING THE PILOT PLANT TO MEET ITS OWN NEEDS FOR ENRICHED URANIUM.

6. KALAHARI SITE. SMITH SAID THAT TO SECURE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF ANY AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON NUCLEAR QUESTIONS THERE MUST BE CLARIFICATION OF THE KALAHARI SITE.

WHEN SOLE REITERATED THAT THE TOWER "HAS BEEN MOVED", SMITH ASKED WHY THE TOWER WAS THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

IN RESPONSE, SOLE SAID, "I AM NOT AUTHORIZED TO SAY BUT WE
HAVE TOLD YOU THAT THE SITE THOUGH NOT NUCLEAR HAD A
MILITARY PURPOSE." SMITH URGED THE SAG TO CLEAR UP THIS
PUZZLE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, PLANNING MEETINGS, UNSC RESOLUTIONS, NUCLEAR REACTORS, MISSILE SITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE115663
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CTAYLOR LK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780193-0141
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780587/aaaacwic.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b1673aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 aug 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2773586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED US-SOUTH AFRICAN TALKS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES SUMMARY. SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR SOLE CAME INTO DEPART- MENT APRIL 28 AT HIS OWN REQUEST TO SEE A MBASSADOR
TAGS: MNUC, SF, US, (SMITH, GERARD C)
To: CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b1673aa3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014